

Our Clients: Monica and BJ

BJ Graduates from the program, Monica continues and her daughter thrives

By Louise Despres
Secretary

So Monica's daughter could finish out the year at Kenwood Academy, we were able to extend her time by about seven months. Monica has been consistently working and her daughter is doing well at school.

BJ did well in working towards her goals with her mentor. She graduated from our program and rented a spacious apartment on her own. Her daughter is still in school and really benefits from her stable living environment.

Both families were living in shelters before coming to our program.

By December we welcomed an intern, Elise Anderson, from the Lutheran Theological Seminary and began planning the Taste of Hyde Park for early April.

New Secretary

My husband, Bob, and I moved to Hyde Park in 2012 from Connecticut to be nearer his sister, Linda, and our son, Fred. When Al Sharp asked if I would be interested in joining the Board, he also asked what I thought that I could do.

I have been secretary on a church committee and for P.E.O., a philanthropic educational sisterhood. I taught French and beginning Spanish for many years and did lots of note taking. So I said that I would be willing to do the minutes for the Board meetings.

Stitching the 2016 Taste of Hyde Park Quilt



By Valerie Lilley
Publicity Coordinator

Sometimes Michele Makinen gets ideas from the fabrics she has on hand, youtube videos, quilting magazines, and sometimes it just comes to her – it always does.

For the past three years -- and this year -- she has been making the quilt for the Taste of Hyde Park silent auction. "Thinking of the needs of a family in transitional housing was easy, it wasn't a leap at all," said Makinen, who spent a career as a social worker helping families and couples through therapy.

She first got interested in quilting six years ago when she picked up a quilting book and a quilting arts magazine. Later, she took a couple of quilting classes at the Hyde Park Art Center where she met other quilters.

Together they started the Lakeside Quilting Guild which has grown to about 30 people in three years. The guild made and continues to make quilts for the families as they go through the HPTHP program.

Quilt continued on page 2

This year's Taste quilt will take at least three weeks to complete. First, Makinen washes and dries the fabric to preshrink it. "Some fabrics shrink differently than others and you don't want any surprises," she said.

She then irons the fabric smooth to cut the precise shapes that she will sew into a twin-bed size. "Let's see, 15 inches drop on sides and a little extra for tucking in the pillow..It'll be 96 inches by 70 inches wide," she said.

Then it goes to be long-arm quilted at a place in Peotone. When that's done, she sews on the backing and around the sides.

This year's Taste quilt will probably be made from Batik fabric, which is finely woven cotton fabric dyed in Indonesia. Makinen has a lot of Batik in her house now, so it might inspire her.

But then again, maybe her artistic talent will be moved by something else. You'll just have to come see.

Breathing in enthusiasm

HPTHP's First Intern

By Elise Anderson

Seminary Intern

I am currently a master's student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and am on the ordination track to become an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church.

Through my seminary work I was able to gain a scholarship through the Public Church Fellowship program. This program is for students who want to be involved with the community and create a stronger bond between Hyde Park and the seminary as well as the church and social justice work. I am so excited to be working with HPTHP and join in the fantastic work they have done for the people of Hyde Park.

A little bit of my story...

I am originally from Chicago, I grew up on the north side and am the daughter of two Lutheran pastors. After being away from Chicago for the last 10 years I am so excited to be living here again and to now be a member of the south side community.

I went to college in Florida State University and studied athletic training/ sports medicine, I went on to get my masters (what I'm calling "grad school round one") in sports medicine from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA.

After graduate school I went to South Africa and lived with and served the community there through the Young Adults in Global Missions program, which is part of the Global Missions program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I had such an incredible experience in South Africa and my work there is a huge reason why I am now in seminary and pursuing a career in ministry.

I so look forward to working with HPTHP and to continue to work with the community surrounding the seminary! I hope to see many of you at the Taste of Hyde Park this spring!

Editor's Note: In lieu of a Fundraising Trustee, Anderson stepped up to take a lead position in putting on the Taste of Hyde Park, which is a huge coordination effort for all members of the board. Fortunately, Jerry Gripshover, who led it last year, wrote a detailed manual to pass on to her.

Eleventh Annual

Taste of Hyde Park

Diner and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 2

St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church

4945 S. Dorchester Ave.

6 - 9 p.m.

All proceeds benefit HPTHP